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Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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Addendum

IV. Other serious crimes, as defined in the Convention, including new forms and dimensions of transnational organized crime

1. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 17 and 18 October 2018, the Conference considered agenda item 3, entitled "Other serious crimes, as defined in the Convention, including new forms and dimensions of transnational organized crime".

2. An introductory statement was made by a representative of the Secretariat.

3. Statements were made by the representatives of Kuwait, Brazil, Indonesia, Algeria, Thailand, India, France, South Africa, Qatar, the United States, Honduras (also on behalf of El Salvador and Guatemala), Colombia, China and Egypt.

4. The Conference also heard a statement by the observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran, a signatory State.

Deliberations

5. Many speakers reiterated that the Organized Crime Convention was a flexible and adaptable instrument for addressing new and emerging forms of crime. Some speakers recalled the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,[1] in which Member States had committed themselves to enhancing their efforts to prevent and counter new and emerging forms of crime. Several speakers expressed concern about the threats posed by new and emerging forms of crime, which were increasingly undermining the social and economic stability of countries and hindering efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Some speakers made reference to linkages between new and emerging forms of crime and terrorism.

6. Several speakers highlighted the challenges related to combating cybercrime. One of those was the effect that cybercrime had on other forms of organized crime. Many speakers drew attention to measures taken by States to improve their national

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

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regulatory and operational capacity to fight cybercrime. Some speakers, while recognizing the importance of bilateral and regional instruments, called for a new multilateral instrument on cybercrime under the auspices of the United Nations. Other speakers expressed the view that the existing international instruments, including the Organized Crime Convention and the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, provided a sufficient normative framework to support countries in addressing cybercrime and fostering international cooperation to counter it.

7. Speakers commended the work of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime and welcomed its 2018–2021 workplan. Some speakers expressed appreciation to UNODC for its capacity-building programmes aimed at improving the criminal justice responses of Member States to effectively respond to cybercrime.

8. Many speakers stressed the linkages between environmental crime and other forms of transnational organized crime. Some speakers emphasized the importance of countering fisheries crime and ensuring safety at sea. In that regard, the importance was noted of utilizing the Organized Crime Convention, as well as relevant regional instruments. Several speakers called for countries to make concerted efforts to counter wildlife crime and commended the technical assistance support provided by UNODC, including the development of the guide on drafting legislation to combat wildlife crime.

9. Many speakers underscored the need to strengthen efforts aimed at combating trafficking in cultural property, including by adopting dissuasive penalties for related offences. In that regard, several speakers encouraged the use of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences. Some speakers stressed the need for an international instrument that would address trafficking in cultural property. One speaker suggested that the Conference could consider studying, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the phenomenon of trafficking in cultural property by organized criminal groups and appropriate responses to it.

10. Speakers called for the strengthening and the harmonization of legislation and stressed the need to criminalize offences related to maritime piracy, falsified medical products, the illicit mining of and trafficking in precious metals, and trafficking in human organs. Furthermore, some speakers called for the continued use of mechanisms provided under the Organized Crime Convention, such as cooperation through designated central authorities and joint law enforcement operations, to acquire timely and sufficient information to prevent and counter those forms of crime. Some speakers also shared their experiences in cooperating with foreign counterparts and the private sector to address new and emerging forms of crime.